



for higher education – and one that I appreciate. While physical horizons are the places in our vision where earth meets sky, I prefer to think about them not as boundaries but as beacons to what might be. Horizons lie beyond our current grasp. They suggest potential and possibility and provide inspiration for creative thinking. Because they speak to possibilities, horizons also are points of hope. We all need hope as well as the vision and imagination to make that for which we hope into a reality.

We are enjoying a time of new, broader horizons at Avila: our physical landscape is changing, creating a different view of campus life. New horizons are also created inside our learning environment every day by the community and connections that develop among students, faculty and staff. Students come to Avila to learn not only how to think but also how to live, and the experiences our alumni carry from classrooms and residence halls remain vivid over a lifetime.

We are enjoying a time of new, broader horizons at Avila: our physical landscape is changing, creating a different view of campus life. Come to campus, and you'll see the signs of growth for yourself. Our new monument sign, provided by a generous gift from Jeanne Hamilton Olofson, '92, '94, '11 makes a strong statement to the community about our solid educational experience and invites visitors to enter campus and engage as life-long learners. Our new Athletic Pavilion, made possible by last year's challenge grant from the Mabee Foundation, will provide much needed space for formal, informal, collegiate and community athletic activities. The new Whitfield Student Commons, also funded by the Mabee challenge grant campaign, will create an environment that fosters the kinds of connections that remain strong throughout entire careers – and provide a warm welcome to the graduate, part-time students and community organizations who use our space for meetings and educational forums. All three of these projects are underway as I write, and will be completed and in use this summer.

It's an exciting time in our life. Over the next two years, we will experience more new construction than we have undertaken since Avila moved to our current location and built a university from the ground up. I hope you will visit campus and share in our excitement. Your support has made these improvements in facilities and learning environment possible, and I am most grateful.

Ron Slepitza, Ph.D., CSJA

Roald a. St

President

# Accent

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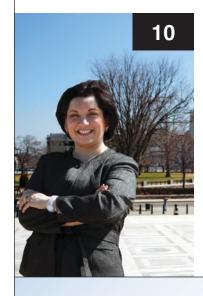
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# ON THE COVER

Ana Valdez '96 Her experience in Avila's MBA program helped lead her to a professional life of advocacy for Hispanics.

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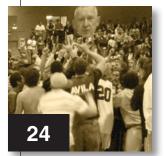


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# **Avila's Poet Laureate**

or the last 14 years, as a professor of English in Avila University's College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, Stanley E. Banks has shared with students his love of words and their usage. That love and appreciation for the art of language runs deep, whether it's commonly-used phrases in the everyday American lexicon, or finer prose like creative writing and poetry.

In fact, Banks' love of poetry goes well beyond classroom lectures or seminars. He's a well-respected poet himself, having had four books of his work published over the years, and recently served as editor for a book of poetry by his wife, Janet.

"I just like spreading the word and joy of writing," he said. As it has turned out, Avila has played a large part in that passion for longer than he ever envisioned, he said. He started his career at the university as an adjunct professor in the spring of 1997, while keeping his full-time job as an English teacher at Paseo High School in Kansas City, Mo. His first semester, he taught just one class, creative writing (poetry).

"It was one of the best times I've

had teaching," Banks said.

"The students were just

thirsty for writing."

He was asked to

During his time at Avila, Banks has taught everything from composition to creative writing to African-American literature – and enjoyed every minute of it.

"You go from teaching six classes of 30 students each

per day ... teaching in college is like going on a working

vacation," he said, laughing.

"I'm like Knute Rockne ... or, what's the name of the old Green Bay Packers coach? (Vince Lombardi)," he said. "I like to give the motivational speech.

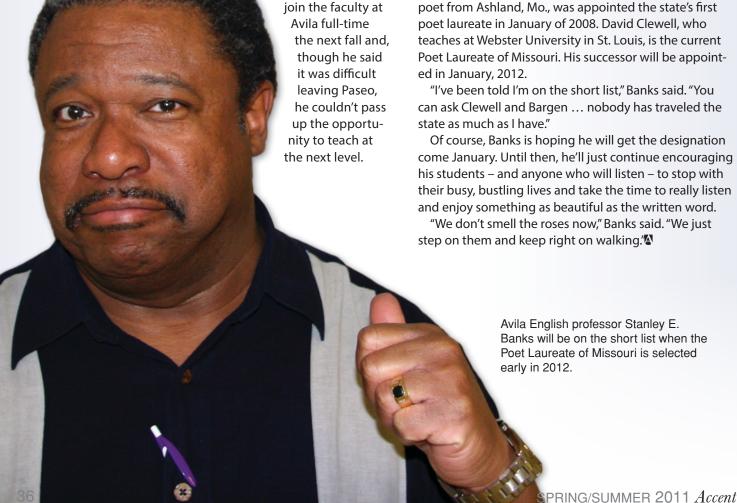
"I can't believe I've been here this long, but ... S. Marie (Joan Harris, Avila's provost) is just incredible. She encourages me to try different things."

It's also allowed Banks the time to pursue his passion for writing poetry, which got started long before he arrived. One of his early works, a book of poems entitled, "Coming from a Funky Time and Place," won him a \$20,000 National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship/ Grant in 1989. Before that, he won the Langston Hughes Prize for Poetry in 1981.

He said he's traveled the state of Missouri talking about and reading poetry to schoolchildren, be it in small, rural areas or big cities like St. Louis. Those efforts, along with his deep body of work, have put Banks in the running for Poet Laureate of Missouri, an honor which was established just a couple years ago. Walter Bargen, a renowned poet from Ashland, Mo., was appointed the state's first poet laureate in January of 2008. David Clewell, who teaches at Webster University in St. Louis, is the current Poet Laureate of Missouri. His successor will be appointed in January, 2012.

can ask Clewell and Bargen ... nobody has traveled the

Of course, Banks is hoping he will get the designation come January. Until then, he'll just continue encouraging his students – and anyone who will listen – to stop with their busy, bustling lives and take the time to really listen



# Social work students get personal view of how state government works

hey gathered in the wee hours – and, pitch dark – of early morning Feb. 23, all in the name of bringing issues they care about to the ears of their state legislators. Three vans carrying 17 Avila University social work students rolled out of the parking lot in front of Goppert Theatre and headed west on Highway 50 to Jefferson City. The students, all seniors enrolled in professor Elaine Wright's Policy and Program Analysis class, were anxious to learn about the processes of state government and enthusiastic about meeting with and lobbying their representatives, despite bleary eyes from the early wake-up call.

The occasion was "Advocacy Day at the Capitol 2011," sponsored by the National Association of Social Workers, Missouri Chapter. More than 140 social work students from more than seven Missouri public and private universities attended the event, including Avila, UMKC, Park, Missouri State, Fontbonne, St. Louis University and Lindenwood. They were welcomed to the Capitol, first by Tamitha Price, executive director of the NASW-Missouri Chapter, then by Linda Baker, executive director of the Governor's Council on Disability.

"Become involved in politics, because your life depends on it," Baker told her captive audience. The students spent much of the rest of the day doing just that.

The Avila students spent the morning observing the organized chaos on the floor of the House of Representatives during a legislative session. They also met the district representative for Avila, Kevin McManus, who seemed eager and thankful for the opportunity to meet with a small group of constituents, even for just a few minutes.

"Having you come down here and talking with us is how we know what's going on out there," McManus told the students.

After lunch, the afternoon was reserved for individual meetings between students and their representatives and senators. All of the students had their own issues and positions to discuss with the legislators.

One group of three students, along with social work professor and group leader Elaine Wright, got a 20-minute meeting with Senate Minority Leader Victor Callahan. Tonya Ganaway didn't hear what she wanted from Callahan on her issue of mandatory helmet laws for motorcyclists. Governor Jay Nixon would veto any such bill that would come his way, Callahan said. But Laura Gillett received Callahan's backing for a transition plan for the developmentally disabled from long-term institutions to community-based homes, and Jill Street's lobby for veterans not having to pay for educational hours also got Callahan's nod.



It was a tired, but happy, group of Avila social work students who posed on the steps of the Missouri Capitol Feb. 23 in Jefferson City at the end of Lobby Day 2011.

Yet another group of students received hands-on lessons in lobbying from Charles Hatcher III, an assistant to Sen. Jolie Justice, who popped in on the group but had to leave to attend a committee meeting. Hatcher grilled the students on their issues, asking questions a lawmaker might ask and giving them a realistic feel for lobbying.

By the end of the day, the caravan headed back east on Missouri Highway 50, even more weary than when they left Kansas City that morning, but exhilarated and energized by the experience.

"I thought everything was just great," said Avila senior Norman Gunn. "I just took everything in."



Do you know someone interested in starting college or in completing a degree? Invite them to check out our values-based community of learning. Avila provides undergraduate and graduate education to prepare students for responsible lifelong contributions to the global community.

Visit avila.edu to learn more.

# Dance squad posts best finish at nationals since '05

ongtime Avila University dance coach Cindy Freeman remembers the reaction of her team when fifth place in the open jazz competition was announced, and her Glitter Girls had yet to be named.

"When they said fifth and hadn't mentioned our name, we were like ... yes! We're back," Freeman said. "We were crying we were so happy."

The Avila dance team had a competition to remember and rejoice in at the 2011 Universal Dance and Cheer Association Collegiate National Championships, held Jan. 13-18 at the ESPN

Wild World of Sports Complex at the Disney Resorts in Orlando, Fla. The Glitter Girls placed fourth in both open hip-hop and open jazz, marking the first year since 2005 that the team placed that high in both dance styles. In '05, the Glitter Girls won the national title in hip-hop and finished third in jazz.

"We knew we had a lot of talent," Freeman said. "But the thing that was really awe-

some about this group was ... they always wanted to make rou-



tines harder. They never said they couldn't do something. That's why they did so well. You push them, and they push themselves harder."

Making the accomplishment all the more sweet for Freeman was that her daughter, Mandy Honeycutt, a senior on that 2005 team, choreographed the Glitter Girls' jazz routine. Avila's hip-hop routine was choreographed by Laura Edwards, who recently worked with Britney Spears' "Circus" tour.

The 19-member dance squad was led by senior co-captains Emma Vogt and Paige Solomon. 

♣

# Avila professor publishes first novel

arin Gastreich, Ph.D., a biology professor in Avila University's School of Science & Health, soon will be able to add another couple titles to her name.

Author and novelist.

Gastreich's novel, her first, is entitled *Eolyn* and was released May 6 by Hadley Rille Books in Overland Park, Kan., and a formal launch party occurred the next day.

According to Gastreich, *Eolyn* is a fantasy novel about a woman who inherits a tradition of magic that is forbidden to women in her world. In fact, the novel's heroine, Eolyn, lives in a world where women of her kind are tortured and burned. When she meets Akmael, destined to assume the throne of this violent realm, she embarks upon a path of adventure, friendship, betrayal and war. As Eolyn takes up arms against King Akmael, a fierce battle rages inside her heart: Must she slay the man she loves in order to free herself and her people?

"This is my first novel, and it draws upon my experiences as a field biologist in the sense that the system of magic is well-grounded in knowledge of the natural world," Gastreich said in an e-mail.

Gastreich also has been selected for the Spring 2011 Andrews Forest Writer's Residency as part of that organization's Long Term Ecological Reflections Program. More information about that can be found at springcreek.oregonstate.edu/residencies.html.

You can read a summary of the novel and preview the first chapters at Gastreich's blog at www.Eolynchronicles.blogspot.com.





# Avila contingent spends spring break at farm in West Virginia

any college students spent spring break lying on a beach in Florida or trekking down ski slopes in Colorado. The experiences of an eight-person contingent from Avila University at a farm in rural West Virginia were something altogether different ... and, rewarding.

Five students, along with Avila president Ron Slepitza, campus minister Dave Armstrong and social work professor Donna Devine, spent the entire week of spring break at and around Bethlehem Farm, a Catholic community in Appalachia that transforms lives through service with local communities and the teaching of sustainable practices. The Avila contingent drove 13 hours in a van and met up at the farm with similar groups from the University of New Hampshire, Virginia Commonwealth University and Notre Dame.

According to Armstrong, the students and chaperones spent the week fulfilling the four cornerstones of Bethlehem Farm – prayer, simplicity, service and community. There was no access to TV, radios, cellphones, iPods or e-mails. They dressed modestly and lived simply, eating food that was taken out of the farm's garden, or eggs taken from one of the farm's chickens.

"Part of that (simplicity) goes with the sustainability part of it," Armstrong said. "It was all about not taking out more than you put in."

The service and community pillars came in the form of the students venturing into the local communities surrounding the farm and helping families in need with home repairs and upkeep.

"It was a blessing to be able to reflect, work on the farm, serve in the community alongside such fine students as I had the joy to be with," Slepitza wrote in his blog on Avila's Web site (http://avila-president.blogspot.com). "The staff of the farm created an experience that put us all in touch with Catholic social teaching, sustainability and service in a deep, per-

sonal and meaningful way."

The trip to Bethlehem Farm was similar to one nine Avila students took back in January to Okolona, Miss. On that trip, the students worked with low-income families in the area, helping tutor children so that they could someday obtain high school of

someday obtain high school diplomas and advance to college. They also helped with small housing projects.

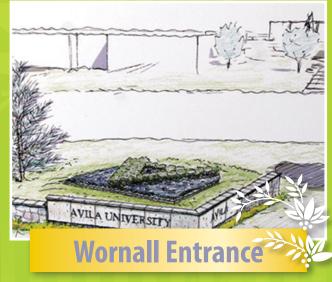


# SPINGING ON CAMPI

# Capital projects are on schedule and on vision!

earning, like everything else, is contextual. The surroundings in which students learn and the tools they use influence their experience. Not surprisingly, then, Avila University supports its educational mission with careful attention to the quality of its facilities. Thanks to the generous support of our alumni and friends, three important capital projects will be constructed this spring and summer: a new Athletic Pavilion; a new monument sign at the entrance to campus; and renovations to the Whitfield Center lobby, creating a student commons areas.

Ongoing new facilities construction has ensured that Avila students continue to have an environment that not only meets their academic, athletic, social and living needs but extends their reach- resulting in higher scholarship, better health and fitness and closer community.







A new, substantial monument sign along the north-west edge of campus will enhance Avila's visibility for commuters on Wornall Road. This increased visibility, coupled with the name of the university being literally "set in stone" will provide a welcoming entrance to Avila's living and learning environment.







Whitfield Lobby is undergoing dramatic changes: when finished, the space will have transformed into a Student Commons: a place to build up our students, faculty and staff and create true community. The lobby will feature a new Subway franchise, which will provide a food service alternative, and comfortable seating suitable for formal and informal learning situations.







In an effort to better serve our students and local community, Avila has renovated the competition court and added new scoreboards inside the Mabee Fieldhouse. This spring, Avila will construct a free-standing addition that will provide another full-size court, effectively doubling the space available for formal and informal sports.

Again, thank you to all our generous alumni and friends who supported the \$4.5M Mabee Challenge Campaign last year.
Your support makes these projects possible!

Mumni



# Disavowing Type A ways leads Valdez to Avila and career in advocacy for Hispanics

istory is filled with people who have undergone sudden revelations that changed the courses of their lives. Some chalk it up to metaphoric light bulbs switching on over their heads. Others give credit to more divine inspirations ... messages from God, or thunderbolts. Legend has it Sir Isaac Newton was beaned on the head by a falling apple.

Then, there are those who get hit by tow trucks.

Meet Ana Valdez. Hers is a story of how she was able to pull herself away from the cutthroat, high-pressure world of corporate America to enter the world of politics and service, specifically to help her fellow Hispanics. Today she leads a national organization charged with advocating for the inclusion of Hispanics at all levels of private and public enterprise. It's a path that included a couple of years at Avila University, where she obtained her master's in business administration in 1996.

But it was back in 2007, while still in the fast-track corporate world working in marketing at Sprint, that the diminutive-but-spunky Valdez was hit with her life-changing epiphany – literally.

As the person responsible for Web marketing to Hispanics at Sprint, Valdez was in Miami, leaving a conference on social media efforts with Hispanics. She was crossing the street from the convention center to the parking lot where her rental car was parked when a tow truck zoomed around the corner of a side street and hit her, knocking her flat in the middle of the street.

Physically, she was OK ... banged up, bruised, but nothing broken. Psychologically, however, something in her changed that day.

"My world over the next nine months changed drastically," Valdez said. "I left the company that I enjoyed working for and felt fulfilled with over the 10 previous years. I had several rounds of physical therapy and surgery on my shoulder (remnants from that tow truck accident). And today, nearly three years after leaving Sprint, I am in Washington D.C. working with Fortune 100 companies to address their Hispanic inclusion strategies and efforts around corporate social responsibility."





Valdez appears with the HACR executive committee. From left, Ron Blackburn-Moreno, President & CEO ASPIRA, National; Clara Padilla-Andrews, Chair of the National Association of Hispanic Publications; Dr. Juana Bordas, President of Mestiza Leadership; Guarione Diaz, President & CEO, CNC



Valdez moderates an HACR panel



Valdez and one her staff members, Mostafa Abdelguelil



Valdez honors Dr. Juana Bordas, a community leader from Denver, Colo.



Valdez appears with Congressman Joe Baca (D-CA)

As executive director for the Hispanic Association on Corporate Responsibility (HACR), Valdez oversees a coalition of some of the largest and most influential Hispanic organizations in the U.S. But, more on that later.

When it comes to recalling the accident - and the personal metamorphosis that followed - her eyes and smile light up, and she lets out an infectious laugh.

"I guess you could say I'm a recovering Type A," she said.

Actually, Valdez said she began her transformation out of the land of Type A about 15 years earlier, and it was a lifestyle change that eventually led her to enrolling in Avila's MBA program in the mid-1990s.

"I went on vacation with an aunt to Hawaii and Australia in '91," she said. "I remember I received a call from my office at 4:30 or 5 a.m. in Hawaii. I thought, there has to be boundaries. I had to draw that distinction.

"I quit my job and started doing work I had more passion for, where I enjoyed going in and getting something done."

She left her job at GE Capital, the financial arm of General Electric, and began working with community-based service organizations like El Centro and the Hispanic Development Fund.

Valdez said she's always been a big believer in Catholic education, which made Avila an easy choice for a university to pursue her graduate degree.

"I believe Catholic education ... instills the whole idea of passion and leaving a legacy," she said. "Avila just reinforced that at the graduate level."

Valdez said she took away many fond memories of friendships she made during her two years at Avila. That, and the feeling that her experience there opened doors for opportunities that were ahead. "That's what life is about," she said.
"When you seek out a mentor, you want to seek out someone who can give you advice, help you open a door to the next opportunity. When you seek out a relationship, you want it to be with someone who will help you grow and open doors to a new life perspective.

"When seeking out educational opportunities, you should reach out to an organization or entity that will progress your desire, your dreams, to do something different, something bigger than yourself."

Valdez went to Sprint right after graduation and worked there for 10 years, first working in the engineering department during some of the company's most exciting days developing mobile phone and ion technologies, then in marketing to Hispanic consumers.

Then, that tow truck barreled around the corner and changed her life yet again. She took a buy-out at Sprint, enrolled in cooking classes ... and caught her breath.

"It was the first time I didn't have to punch the clock in nearly 30 years," she said.

Her sabbatical was into its eighth month when she called a friend in Washington D.C. who invited her out to visit.

"I came out and, while I was there, I interviewed (with HACR)," Valdez said. "They made me an offer on Friday the 13th, and I accepted."

Valdez said HACR, which is celebrating its 25th year in 2011, is all about Hispanic inclusion in business. It especially focuses on four aspects of business: employment, procurement, philanthropy and governance. It's all about good corporate responsibility, she said.

"We want business to take advantage of a growing portion of the population," said Valdez, who oversees a staff of eight from the small office space in Washington D.C.

"Latin America has the third-largest growing population in the world, behind China and India. There are 46 million Hispanics living in the U.S. The entire population in Canada is smaller than the Hispanic population here.

"We want to come together at the table and focus on these areas."

HACR deals mostly with Fortune 100 companies, including Walmart, Pepsi, Kraft Foods, General Motors, Ford and Coca-Cola. Valdez said that those companies have made major strides in the first three prongs – employment, procurement and philanthropy – but there remains work to be done in the area of governance. In fact, Valdez said only two Fortune 100 companies have chief executive officers who are women.

"I know other CEOs are watching them, starting to wonder what the options are," Valdez said.

Valdez also was instrumental in the creation of the Kansas City chapter of the National Society of Hispanic MBAs and served as its founding president. She's also received several awards and recognitions, most recently receiving Diversity MBA Magazine's 2010 Top 100 under 50 Emerging & Executive Leader Award.

Carlos Gomez, president and chief executive officer of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Greater Kansas City, worked closely with Valdez when she was with Sprint and knows HACR, and Hispanics in general in this country, have a great leader and advocate working for them.

"First, Ana truly cares for the community. Her sole motive is, how can I help communities and companies," Gomez said. "She knows her stuff when it comes to planning, outreach, branding. She's an expert in her field who can effectively advise companies, communities.

"I'm in (Washington) D.C. at least four times a year, and to have some-



Valdez and David Axelrod at the White House Cinco de Mayo 2010

one like Ana who has connections ... I know I can call on her anytime. Ana's a leader, and we can definitely use leaders."

Why does Valdez care about such things? Other than the fact it's her job? She said it all comes back to Catholic education, the kind which she received at Avila.

"It seems that Catholic education has more students going to other parts of the globe and helping the lives of others," she said. "Study abroad programs ... I would encourage that experience. Take advantage of it. Having that perspective of what's outside this country will really help you in the workplace, even if it's just knowledge of how other places operate."

But, Valdez cautions, watch out for those tow trucks.



On March 12, Avila University celebrated the 35th Annual Steer Dinner at the Overland Park Sheraton. First held in 1977, the Steer Dinner is one of the longest-running charity auctions in Kansas City. More than \$360,000 was raised to benefit student scholarships. More than 350 guests enjoyed a delicious

"steer" steak dinner, a lively auction courtesy of Shane
Smith and dancing to the sounds of Four Fried Chickens and a Coke.
Avila is most grateful to our generous supporters for making Steer 2011 such a huge success!



Dan and Linda Cosgrove, Christine Ojile, Doug Poyser, Julie Weiss and Greg Lever all dance to the sounds of Four Fried Chickens and a Coke.



Susan McGreevy celebrates her "Heads and Tails" win of a beautiful diamond necklace, provided by Especially Jewelry.



Leisha and Ken Barry share a laugh during the Steer Dinner.



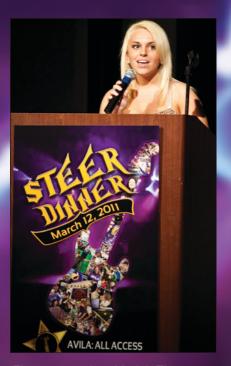
Avila students start the night off with a high-energy entrance to the ballroom, setting the tone for a fun evening.



Joe and Sue Fahey are welcomed to the Steer Dinner by Suzanne Slepitza and Avila President Ron Slepitza, Ph.D.



Auctioneer Shane Smith and Avila student Shea Ketchum encourage bidding on a golf package.



First year student Mariah Thompson shares how scholarship donations are critical to her continuing her education.



Avila President Ron Slepitza, Ph.D., greets guests Sharon and Tom McCullough.

**SAVE THE DATE •** SAVE THE DATE • **SAVE THE DATE** • SAVE THE DATE

# STEER DINNER FEBRUARY 18, 2012

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# Avila grad earns opportunity to learn from NASA

desire to further her education at Avila University led to a fascination and passion for science. And now, that passion – along with a desire to finish off her master's degree at Avila – has led to an opportunity for Dianne Saltzman to learn from some of the brightest scientists and engineers this country has to offer.

Saltzman, an award-winning fifthgrade teacher at Little Blue Elementary in Kansas City, Mo., recently was awarded an Endeavor Fellowship with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, commonly referred to as NASA.

That's right, Saltzman is learning from some of the same people who work daily to put men and women in space and guarantee their safe return home.

"It's been just awesome so far," said Saltzman, who started the program in January. "It's pretty in-depth. I wanted something rigorous, and I haven't been disappointed."

The Endeavor Science Teaching Certificate Project provides live, online training for K-12 teachers around the country working to earn a certificate in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) Education from Teachers College, Columbia University in New York. Endeavor fellows engage with education experts, NASA scientists and each other so that they can carry back to the classroom a greater understanding of NASA discoveries and to impact student learning in real-world contexts, inspiring a new generation of explorers, scientists, engineers and astronauts.

Saltzman hopes to carry 15 credit hours from the program over to her graduate work at Avila, which will allow her to complete her master's in education in August (she's just eight hours short). Coincidentally, it was a search for credit hours that led to her love of science. Working on her second career and nearing 50, she was finishing up her associate's degree at Longview Community College and

had decided to continue at Avila.

"Everybody said (Avila) was the best teachers' program in Kansas City," she said. "It's very highly held in teachers' regard. I wanted to go with the best."

However, she still needed 15 hours of science to transfer. That's all it took for her to identify her favorite subject.

"I really dig science," she said. "I just didn't realize it until then."

These days, Saltzman is knee-deep in it. She said she applied for the Endeavor Fellowship after seeing an advertisement in a National Science Teachers Association publication. It "The speakers we get are phenomenal, because it's all online. For instance, in a current class on Mars exploration, we have heard from a renowned volcanologist and the chief scientist of the ARES Mars Airplane Mission."

Saltzman has been in teaching a short time, but already had drawn accolades even before receiving the Endeavor Fellowship. In 2009, she was named Avila's MACTE Beginning Teacher of the Year. And she's been named the Little Blue Elementary Teacher of the Year for the 2010-11 school year.

She also has maintained her strong



took her about a month to put together her application packet, and she said NASA selected about 40 teachers from around the country for fellowships. Now, she's spending hours upon hours listening to speakers ranging from top education officials from around the country to NASA engineers and scientists. She said she'll complete her first six hours in May, then three more in the summer and three more in the fall. She's scheduled to complete her certificate in spring 2012 with a teacher research project, also called action research.

"What's been most valuable is that there's a lot of action research, which is very important in learning to be a better teacher," she said. "We're looking at space concepts, looking at how to fit things into concepts I'm teaching. I'm especially interested in engineering, since this is one of my weakest areas.

ties to Avila. She said she keeps in close contact with former professors like Fred Geer and Sue Ellen McCalley, because they show a genuine interest in her success and continue to be a resource for her. And, she's a TEXT mentor to an education student Avila assigns her every semester.

Saltzman said she feels a great appreciation for the ways her education at Avila helped prepare her for future studies and her "second" career.

"Avila did a great job at two things in science methods for teachers," she said. "They taught us how to dig for misconceptions and point out how important they are. Then, we learned about what happens when a student has a misconception and how to fix that, thus hooking it up with what they already know. My master's work at Avila contributed further to my ability to do this.

"I feel I'm making a major contribution to students' understanding."

# June 11, 2011

# **Alumni Day at Worlds of Fun**

We'll picnic and park all day long! Your \$25 ticket is a substantial discount from the \$48.99 you would pay if you paid at the gate. In addition, you can join other alumni for an all-you-can-eat family picnic at 11 a.m. and then ride until the park closes for one price.

Register online at www.avila.edu/alumni/events/summerfun

# **June 18, 2011**

# **Alumni Day at the T-Bones**

Community America Ballpark 1800 Village West Parkway • Kansas City, KS

Bring the whole family out for a fun night to watch the Kansas City T-Bones v. Fort Worth Cats game!

Tailgate begins at 5:35 p.m. in the Miller Lite party area behind the centerfield fence. The tailgate includes three hot entrees, two sides and two drink tickets good for beverages of your choice.

Opening pitch at 7:05 p.m. \$20 per person (includes game ticket and tailgate food and drinks)

Space is limited. Please reply today!

Register online at www.avila.edu/alumni/events/summerfun

# **July 16, 2011**

# **Alumni Day at Schlitterbahn**

Grab the kids, put on your swimsuits and hit the slides! Get discounted tickets for the Schiltterbahn Waterpark through the Avila University Alumni Association!

Regular admission is \$35.99, and we're offering tickets for \$25 for ages 12-54 and \$22 for ages 3-11 and 55+. Children 2 and under are free.

Register online at www.avila.edu/alumni/events/schlitterbahn

**October 7-10** 



# Allumnii Galendar

For more information or to make reservations for these events, contact Susan Randolph at (816) 501-3780 or susan.randolph@avila.edu.

# Call for Nominations

Do you know an outstanding Avila alumnus? Have you been inspired by his or her contributions to the community? Let us honor them at this year's alumni awards ceremony during Homecoming weekend, Oct. 7–9, 2011.

Visit the Web at www.avila.edu/alumni to nominate an alumnus and to read more about the various awards that will be bestowed during Homecoming.

All nominations must be received by July 1. For additional questions or comments, please call Susan Randolph, director of alumni relations, at 816-501-3780 or e-mail susan.randolph@avila.edu

# A L U M N I A S S O C I A T I O N

# Staying connected to Avila is easy!

Submit your news for publication in *Accent*. Let us know when you get a new job or promotion, get engaged or married, have babies, retire or take a fabulous vacation. You also can send photos! Return this form or update your information online at www.avila.edu/alumni/update.asp

Name:	Maiden:	Class Year:
Address:		Phone: ()
E-mail:	News:	

Mail to: Office of Advancement, Avila University, 11901 Wornall Rd., Kansas City, MO 64145 E-mail: advancement@avila.edu

# **Alumni Ski Trip**

On January 28, 2011, (the one unseasonably warm day this winter) Avila alumni and students converged on Snow Creek in Weston, Mo. Fifty-five alumni and friends joined students participating with Campus Ministry to take over the hill. If you missed out this year, be sure to join us for some ski and snowboard fun next year!

# **Alumni Basketball**

Some laced up their shoes and others cheered from the stands, but on Feb. 5, 2011, almost 155 alumni and their family members came to the Alumni Day at the Fieldhouse. Fans were able to watch the Alumni Women and Men's scrimmages, cheer on the Avila men's and women's teams and enjoy complimentary snacks in a V.I.P. area. It may have been cold, but the action on the court was hot!

# **Great Wolf Lodge**

If the Great Wolf Lodge seemed a bit crowded on Friday, Apr. 1, there was no fooling—the Avila University Alumni Association booked 53 of the resort's hotel rooms at a discounted rate to participate in our annual Great Wolf Lodge event. Alumni were treated to an ice cream social and the chance to win fabulous Avila prizes. A lot of swimming took place, much sugar was consumed, but a great time was had by all!



























- <sup>2</sup>62 Sylvia Biondo Mazzeffe and her husband celebrated their 50th anniversary Oct. 8, 2010. Their four children, their spouses and nine grandchildren hosted a wonderful dinner for the couple at Cascone's North in Kansas City, Mo.
- **'64 Kathy Hegarty Thorne** is a selfemployed freelance writer living in Newberg, Ore.
- <sup>2</sup>68 Susan England Smith has five grandchildren, ages 2-13. Her family took a vacation last summer to Mackinac Island and Niagara Falls.
- **71** Barb Walsh Bouchey is trying to organize a reunion for the Avila Class of 1971 (40 years!) for next fall. Contact Barb at bbbouch@swbell.net.



- **76 Frank Cowing** has started his own business as a search consultant in Sammamish, Wash.
- '78 Judith Sharp Anders is working on her dissertation and seeking a Ph.D. in applied gerontology from the University of North Texas in Denton and is anticipating finishing this August. She currently works as a clinical guidance nurse-senior case manager for Humana Insurance Company.
- **\*84 Josetta Wahwassuck** got married Jan. 10, 2010 after 20 years of being a single mom raising three kids who now are ages 28, 26 and 25. She resides in Cleveland, Mo.
- **185 Sandra Schmid** is finishing her master of arts degree in counseling in St. Louis in Aug. 2011.



- 289 Ann Wycoff Raab is a Ph.D. candidate in archaeology at Kansas University. Her work has been focused on Civil War sites on the Missouri-Kansas border and recently was featured in the March/April 2010 issue of Archaeology Magazine. She'll be doing further work at Missouri's newest state park, the Battle of Island Mound State Historic Site. Read more about her work at www.batescountyarcheology.com.
- '89 Shelly Clements Hill mobilized in support of Operation Enduring Freedom to Landstuhl Army Medical Center from July 2010-Nov. 2010. She functioned as a CRNA providing anesthesia for U.S. troops and coalition forces. She is currently assigned as chief nurse of anesthesia with the 5502nd U.S. Army Hospital, USAR.
- **'91 Shirley Yarick** is retired as a longtime teacher and now teaches and writes Bible studies for her church.
- **'93 Connie Mistler Davidson** is a teacher at Wyandot Academy, a special day school in the Kansas City Kansas School District. She was selected by her peers to be this year's Star Teacher. She has certifications in both general education and special education K-12. She also teaches in the CLEAR program at Johnson County Community College. In September, Connie was chosen by BellaOnline, the second-largest Web magazine for women, to enter their editor training program. She is now the BellaOnline Attention Deficit Disorder editor, and her articles have been linked to media such as Times of India, NPR and Canada.com.
- **'96 Rachel Thompson Gray** has worked for 15 years at Overland Park Regional Medical Center in the mother/baby unit. She and husband Eric (also

- an Avila graduate) have three boys, Tyler, 12, Dylan, 9 and Ryan, 6, and the family recently built a new house close to Avila. Rachel is currently working toward her master's and hopes to one day teach at Avila.
- **'96 Deborah Schmidt Mercer** was married to Raymond Mercer July 7, 2007 in Jamaica. Her youngest daughter, Danielle, was married to Josh Adams on Aug. 16, 2008. She also is a proud grandparent to Hailey Ann Marie (Dec. 22, 2005) and Isabella Dawn (Oct. 28, 2010).
- '97 Linda Irvin Wiersma got married in July. In September, she won the Legislative District 2 Kansas Elementary Teacher of the Year award. She splits her time between her students and traveling around the state to advocate for teachers and students. The Kansas Teacher of the Year Team speaks to University Education students and tours school districts throughout the state. In addition, they speak to House and Senate committees in Topeka.
- **'98 Shane Sands** won Vet Heavyweight number 1 plate in the District 37 Best of The West Offroad motocross series and Vet 6th place overall in the Desert motocross series.
- 200 Rassana Vallazza Kistler, who currently lives with her family in Naples, Italy, traveled to Avila, Spain last Thanksgiving and visited the actual birthplace of St. Teresa of Avila, now named Chapel of "La Santa" within her church located with the foundation of the Carmelite Order she reformed in the 1500s. They also attended Mass and met the head priest who has been at St. Teresa of Avila church for more than 23 years. In March, Kistler returned to Avila with her mother and sister, Lourdes Vallazza Krause, who attended St. Teresa's Academy in Kansas City, Mo.



**101 Therese Aquino,** Manuel Aquino III, and Big Sister Ella welcomed baby Manuel Aquino IV to their family Jan. 20, 2011.



**\*02 Erin Wilson Oligschlaeger** gave birth to a son, Lawrence Emil "Leo" Oligschlaeger, Sept. 12, 2010. Leo weighed in at 6 lbs., 7 oz. and was 18 ½ inches long. He is joined at home by sisters Kennedy and Sydney and dad, Kevin. Oligschlaeger is director of special services at Marshall Public Schools, Marshall, Mo.



<sup>2</sup>**02** Jake and Megan Sanders welcomed Daphne Olivia to the family Nov. 29, 2010. Daphne weighed 8 pounds, 8 ounces and measured 21 inches at birth.

\*\*O3 Ahmad Ashkar started a non-profit that was recognized by President Bill Clinton as having a mission of "crowdsourcing innovative ideas to help combat global social challenges. See the video at www.youtube.com/watch?v=OCsCj4rotTE.

205 Misty DeMoss Burch was promoted to contracts associate at PRA International, where she's been employed since 2007. She's found that her strong background in research psychology has given her opportunities to advance within the company.

**\*\*05 Kari French** recently was promoted to president, Texas Gas Service and is in the process of relocating her family.

**\*\*105 Mandy Freeman Honeycutt** married **Clint Honeycutt** ('07) in June, 2006, and had a baby girl, Kinsley Addison May 6, 2009. The couple started a dance studio, The Movement & Co. Dance and Performing Arts, in Raymore, Mo. in the summer of 2010.



**205** Kara Wessel Thomas married Adam Thomas on Aug. 28, 2010 at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church in Kansas City, Mo. She is an accountant at Miller Haviland Ketter PC, PA. The couple resides in Kansas City.

\*\*O7 Melissa Groves received her master's in teaching and learning from Avila in 2010. She is completing her fourth year of teaching music at Drexel RIV Public Schools. This spring, she and a student are singing at Lincoln Center in New York City with the New York Philharmonic in a mass choir.

\*107 Shawn P. Bradley Lang recently had a book published – Heart Condition from Religiosity to Relationship with the Creator. The book was published by WestBow Press, an affiliate of Thomas Nelson and was originally released in October 2010.



**107 Kimberly Coffman Marcos** finally got married on the beach...April Fools Day of course! She recieved her MSW from UMKC in 2009 and achieved Kan. LMSW in 2010. She's now looking for employment!



in Kansas City Dancing with the Stars, a star-studded event where local celebrities dance and compete to raise money and awareness for Cristo Rey Kansas City High School. The star dancers are coached by local professionals and the audience votes for the winner. It was held Saturday, Mar. 26.

<sup>2</sup>07 Sherry Perry became engaged on New Year's Eve and will be married on June 24, 2011. She currently works as a senior audit analyst at HNTB Corporation.

**107 Jason Sportsman** recently accepted a position as Global Travel Manager at Hilton Worldwide and moved to McLean, Va.

\*\*108 Rebecca Stolberg Ishum and Sean Ishum ('00) were married in March 2008. They welcomed quadruplets, Caleb, Abigail, Elijah and Elizabeth Feb. 23, 2011. Rebecca received her bachelor of arts in English, and Sean received his bachelor of arts in political science.

\*\*O8 Darlene Kirtley opened her own private practice in counseling, Oasis Counseling & Enrichment in downtown Parkville, Mo. She offers individual and family counseling, testing and assessment, sandtray therapy, play therapy, continuing education and networking for counselors, and fun enrichment classes. Also offered is a free parenting enrichment class the first Saturday of the month as well as free counseling for foster kids and parents. Visit the Web site at www.oasiscounseling.com.



- **'08 Joe Mentzer** and wife Sarah welcomed their first baby, Anna Maxine Mentzer, born March 4, 2011, weighing 8 lbs., 9 oz. and 19.5 inches long. Dec. 17, 2010. Joe graduated from Pittsburg State with a master of arts in teaching and is a fully-licensed teacher in Kansas.
- **109** Jillian Foster is merchandise and food and beverage manager with Threesixty Entertainment and is on tour with the traveling production of J.M. Barrie's Peter Pan in the "360 Theatre."
- "Shotgun Sue" on the street troop at Silver Dollar City in Branson, Mo. The troop roams the park and makes people smile and performs a show every hour on the hour. She's also doing a program called Discovery Arts for children in the hospital. In addition, she also has coordinated theater events to raise money for the Susan B. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.
- **'09 Suzanne Goode Reedy**, a sixthgrade teacher in Louisburg, Kan., was nominated by the U.S. School District 416 administrative staff for the Horizon Award. The award is for a teacher who shows exemplary teaching and promise

during their first year of teaching in the state of Kansas.

- **\*\*09 Shelly Souders** is about to complete her first year of teaching art in the DeSoto, Kan. School District.
- **109 Brooke McNally**, along with her husband Patrick, welcomed their second child on July 30, 2010. Trina Elizabeth joins older brother Dean in the McNally household in Kansas City, Mo. Brooke is employed at Sprint.
- \*10 Kathie Gridley is teaching sixthgrade social studies at Raytown Middle School. She received her bachelor's in history from Avila University and received her master's in education last May.
- **10 Asim Hassoubah** is a financial analyst with NATPET, the National Petroleum Industrial Company. He resides in Jeddah, Makkah, Saudi Arabia.
- \*10 Nikki Gutierrez has been selected as one of Missouri's Outstanding Beginning Teachers by the Missouri Association of Colleges for Teacher Education. She teaches in the Center School District in Kansas City, Mo.
- **10 Valerie Reed** is working as a print production coordinator for PlattForm Advertising in Lenexa, Kan. She also is a recent communications recipient for the Dallavis Award.



"10 Heather Lawson recently began working with Hewins Financial Advisors as a client service representative. Hewins Financial is a financial investment advisory company based out of San Mateo, Calif., but Lawson works out of her home in Lee's Summit, Mo.

# in memoriam

- **'44** Sylvia Rose Froeschl Griffin passed away Feb. 25, 2011 at the age of 88. She attended the College of St. Teresa, now Avila University, but transferred before completing her degree.
- **'54 Constance Claire Boles** passed away Dec. 25, 2010. Constance received a diploma in nursing from what then was the College of St. Teresa, now Avila University.
- **'58 Barbara M. O'Malley** passed away Dec. 24, 2010. Barbara earned her bachelor of arts in education from the College of St. Teresa, now Avila University.
- **'85 Edith Ann Batton** passed away April 10, 2011. Edith earned her bachelor of science in medical technology in 1985 from Avila University.
- **'90** Nancy (Pickren) Kremeier passed away Dec. 4, 2010. Nancy received her bachelor of arts in arts education in 1990 from Avila College.
- **'08 Brett Lee Ballard** passed away Jan. 25, 2011. Brett received his bachelor of science in business from Avila University.

**Robert Lewellen** passed away May 14, 2011. Bob served for many years on the Avila Board of Counselors and was a strong supporter of Avila arts and educational programs.

**Shirley Leigh Reardon** passed away Feb. 12, 2011. She attended what was then the College of St. Teresa, now Avila University but did not graduate.

Eagles basketball star gains practical experience in PT

fter playing basketball for most of her young life, Alyson Young knew she wanted to pursue a career that had at least something to do with the physical aspects of life and the human body.

When she decided on pursuing a career in physical therapy, the Springfield, Mo. native said it didn't take long to figure out Avila University had just the kind of undergraduate curriculum available to prepare her well for when it came time to apply to physical therapy schools around the region.

"Most people's problem is that they don't take the necessary prerequisite classes they need (to apply successfully to a PT school), said Young, who will complete her bachelor's degree in kinesiology with an emphasis in sport and exercise science in May. "They don't take the classes when they need to take them.

"I got my science classes out of the way early. I got my prereqs done. I really don't know what to expect next year. But I think I'll be fine. I don't think I'll be thrown anything I haven't heard before."

Young said she's already been accepted to physical therapy school at Southwest Baptist in Bolivar, Mo. and also is hopeful of being accepted at her hometown Missouri State in Springfield. Either program, she said, involves nine semesters of intensive course and practicum work.

Young has been getting a jump on gaining practical experience as a volunteer intern in Avila's kinesiology lab. Twice a week, she spends an hour with Joan Willcox, a woman from a neighborhood just south of the university. Young leads Willcox through a series of stretches and strength drills aimed at increasing bone density, flexibility and muscle strength. She also gets Willcox on the Power Plate, a full-body vibrating machine designed to help with bone density.

"I came here first to use the Power Plate," Willcox said, "and the rest is just a bonus. I feel so much better when I leave here."

The remainder of Young's experiences of a physical nature at Avila have been much more personal. She's been a standout on the Eagles women's basketball team almost from the day she first stepped on campus. A six-foot post player, Young earned Heart of America Athletic Conference freshman of the year honors following her first season. She's led the HAAC in scoring each of the past two seasons, including the 2010-11 season. In a home game against Culver-Stockton on Feb. 5, Young became Avila's all-time leading scorer, surpassing the 1,793 points of Jessica Pankey from 1994-99. After the HAAC post-season tournament, she stood just 18 points shy of the 2,000-point mark.

Most important, Young was instrumental in the Eagles' run to their first conference tournament victory and led the team into its first-ever NAIA National Tournament March 16-22 in Jackson, Tenn.

"The season was kind of a roller coaster," Young said, "but to finish it off like that at the right time and go to the national tournament .... I couldn't ask for more than that."



# Avila women's basketball team has historic season

he Avila University women's basketball team had its head coach feeling like a member of the 1980 U.S. Olympic hockey team by the end of the season. "It's just one of those seasons, kind of like the Miracle on Ice," Larry Williams said after his Eagles defeated Graceland, 74-70, in the final of the Heart of America Athletic Conference tournament, thus securing the team its first-ever berth in the NAIA Division I National Tournament. "We shouldn't have been here, but things have just fallen into place."

That they did in a season in which the team established several benchmarks that should inspire subsequent Avila basketball teams for years to come. Even before the post-season, Eagles players had several moments to remember. Junior shooting guard Brittany Townsend scored 40 points in a 76-70 victory Feb. 3 at Graceland. It was the second-highest single-game point total posted by an NAIA Division I player during the regular season.

Junior point guard Torie Murillo led the nation the entire season in steals and steals per game, and in a home

game Feb. 5 against Culver-Stockton, the Blue Springs South product came within two rebounds of a very-rare quadruple-double, finishing with 11 points, 13 assists, 10 steals and eight rebounds. In that same game, senior center Alyson Young surpassed Jessica Pankey as Avila's all-time leading scorer.

The Eagles finished in third place in the conference and were seeded third in the tournament. After easily defeating MidAmerica Nazarene in the quarterfinals, they notched a big upset by beating Lindenwood 81-72 in the semifinals. That set up the final showdown at home against Graceland, and the Eagles took full advantage, playing a strong second half and securing a spring break trip to Jackson, Tenn. for the national tournament.

"It's the best feeling I've ever had in my coaching career," Williams said. "It's a dream come true."

Young and Murillo made first-team all-HAAC, while Townsend was a third-team selection. Young and junior guard Addie Buckler were named NAIA Scholar-Athletes for maintaining at least a 3.5 grade-point average.





# he President's Circle

Avila's President's Circle was created in 2007 to recognize the distinguished alumni and friends whose level of private support continues to help transform the institution through planned gifts, lifetime giving and annual contributions. The President's Circle serves to:

- Provide an increasing pattern of generous support to the University to enhance quality in all of its academic endeavors and foster an environment of innovation and service to 'the dear neighbor;'
- Develop the active participation of alumni and friends to serve the institution through close association with the president and University community;
- Recognize those whose generosity serves the welfare and advancement of Avila and its students; and,
- Educate all constituents on the importance of philanthropy at Avila.

Thank you to all of the President's Circle members for your leadership and investment in the future of Avila University!

# AVILA HERITAGE SOCIETY MEMBERS

The Avila Heritage Society was established in 1988 to recognize the remarkable contributions of our alumni and friends who have made provisions in their estate plans to support the ongoing and future needs of the University or have created an endowed scholarship fund. The following individuals and families are members of the Avila Heritage Society:

Charles J. & Suzanne S. Adams '69

Kathleen K. Adams '47

Kathleen K. Adams '47

Janie Ahnger '76

Don H. & Christine A. Alexander

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†Raymond & †Geraldine Barrows

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†Ronald Jay & Jane Bennett

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†Alfred & †Kathryn Blasco

†Margaret & †James P. Blickhan, Sr.

Henry W. & Marion Bloch

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†Edwin Borserine

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†Margaret Borserine

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'47 †Margaret O'Rielly '18

†Mary Margaret O'Sullivan

Jeanne Hamilton Olofson

'92 & '94 †Betty Ann Patti

†Barbara Pendleton

Daivara i ciluicion

Dr. Robert & Beverly Powell †C. Thomas & Antonia Rafter Gloria R. Ragan '45 Robert & Carolyn Reintjes †Philomena Ridgway Mary K. Riley '40 †Phyllis Ritts-Schroer '65 †Mary Louise Rosenbauer †Evelyn Nelson Ryan †Larry & †Kathryn Saeger '37 †Stanley & †Evelyn Samborski '80 Tom & Kathy Sanders

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†Catherine McGee Soden

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Sutton '36

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'54
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Belinda R. Troxler '88
†Lloyd Troxler
†Theodora A. Tucker
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Julianne Zukowski

# AVILA LIFETIME GIVING SOCIETY

Introduced in 2007, the
Lifetime Giving Society
recognizes donors whose
cumulative giving (outright
gifts + pledge payments)
have reached leadership
levels and transformed the
institution. Where possible,
we have linked donors with
their affiliations and/or family
foundations. The following
individuals and organizations
are members of the Avila
Lifetime Giving Society:

# Fr. Jean Pierre Medaille Order \$1.000.000 +

Jean Pierre Medaille was a Jesuit missionary whose journeys took him through the towns and villages of south-central France from about 1640-1670. In 1650, he gathered the first six women who would become Sisters of St. Joseph and urged them to "practice spiritual and corporal works of mercy...which will most benefit the dear neighbor."

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# Mother St. John Fontbonne Order \$500,000–\$999,999

Born Jeanne Fontbonne, she entered the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1778. After taking on several leadership roles, Mother St. John as she was called, was taken prisoner during the French Revolution in the 1790's and the order was dispersed. After narrowly escaping the guillotine, she refounded the Sisters of St. Joseph at Lyon, France in 1807. In 1836, she sent six sisters to America where they settled in Carondelet, Missouri.

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# Bishop Henri De Maupas Order \$250,000–\$499,999

On October 15, 1650, Bishop De Maupus assembled the six aspirants of Fr. Medaille in LePuy, France, gave official church recognition to them as a religious community, placed them under the protection of St. Joseph and ordered that they should be called the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph. He placed them in charge of an orphan asylum for girls.

James & Mary Ida Compton Foundation

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Menorah Legacy Foundation

National Science Foundation

Oppenstein Brothers Foundation

Victor E. and Caroline E. Schutte Fdn - 1959 Trust

The Sunderland Foundation

# Bishop Joseph Rosati Order \$100,000–\$249,999

Named the bishop of St. Louis in 1824, Bishop Rosati oversaw the development of numerous schools, orphanages, hospitals and churches, including the Basilica of St. Louis the King. In 1836, Bishop Rosati asked for help in serving the needy of the region, which lead to the Sisters of St. Joseph coming to Carondelet, Missouri. The Sisters opened up St. Joseph Institute for the Deaf in 1837and it remains open today.

Andrews McMeel Universal Foundation

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Baptist Trinity Lutheran Legacy Foundation

Henry W. and Marion H. Bloch Foundation

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Mrs. Mary Jane Hatton
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Mr. & Mrs. Harold F. Heiman
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Ms. Evon L. Hillan
Mr. Craig Hillbrand
Mrs. Carole A. Hillestad
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Jones Mr. Trent L. Jones
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	Ms. Mary Ann Knowles
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	Mrs. Carolyn R. Koppes
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	Mrs. Kathleen Kraft
]	Miss Anna J. Kraus
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Mr. Cory J. Prindiville	Ms. Patricia A. Scanlon
Mrs. Kristen D. Pryor	Mr. & Mrs. Joseph
Mrs. Sherry Quackenbush	Schauer, III
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Rackers	Dr. Sherry L. Schirmer
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Mrs. Margye A. Thornton	Mrs. Patricia A. Walters, RN	By Class	Sr. Rosemary Flanigan, CSJ	Sr. Martha Ann Niemann, CSJ
Mr. Ryan Thornton	Mrs. Suzanne Ward	1936	Kathryn A. Childs Hake	Marjorie K. Nash Shine
Mrs. Patricia H. Thorpe	Mr. & Mrs. Jerry	Theresa B. Sutton	Mary Elizabeth Hessel	
Mrs. Marilyn T. Tobias	Watson	Theresa B. Sutton	Heiman	1951
Mrs. Katherine M. Todd	Mr. & Mrs. James V.	1938	Mary Jo Mathews Hopkins	Nadine Antoinette
Mrs. Mary Ann Toohey	Watson	Dorothy S. Sipp Nestor	Geraldine R. Sulzer	Binaggia Helen M. Bessenbacher
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas D.	Ms. Lori D. Wayne	Laurelle O'Leary	Marybeth Swartz	Colwell
Townsend	WDAF-TV, Fox 4 Mrs. Ethel I. Weddle	Mildred A. Tapko	O'Malley	Patricia Jansen Doyle
Mrs. Mary Jo Truog	Mrs. Ethel I. Weddle  Mrs. Arden Weis		Patricia L. Mathews	Rita M. Olson Kersting
Mr. & Mrs. Kristofer P. Turnbow	Mrs. Arden weis Ms. Paula M. Welch	1939	Van Buskirk	Leonore M. Verde
Mr. & Mrs. John Tyler		Louise Mae Nigro Dold		Messina
Mrs. Julie K. Tynon	Mrs. Mary Ann Wells	Mary M. Lynch Schmidt	1948	Flora M. Lenz Mundy
U.S. Toy Company	Ms. Sue A. Wercinski		Barbara E. Hutchings Coddington	
/ Constructive	Mrs. Cherie A. West	1941	Dolores T. Waters	1952
Playthings	Mr. & Mrs. Kelly E. West	Marjorie Cowing	Fleming	Anna L. Hennessy Barber
Unicorn Theatre	Ms. Debra M. White	Lippert	Mary Frances Garies	Margaret A. Atha
Union Station Kansas	Mrs. Mary E. Wiggins	1042	Mary Elizabeth Gent	Horrigan
City Mrs. Loren Valentine-	Ms. Sheryl K. Wilde	1942	Gordon	Rita Marie Treadwell
Reyes	Mrs. Catherine A.	Teresa J. Kouba Lois M. Romer Poorman	Mary Ann Miller Hense	Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. Les Van	Wilder	Lois Wi. Romer i dominan	Estelle Jean Murphy	JoAnn O'Connor Lyons
Bibber	Ms. Belinda Wilkerson	1943	Virginia M. Michaelis Telecky	Dorothy J. Brandt Marra
Mrs. Pat L. Van Buskirk	Mrs. Beverly M.	Mary K. Olson	Betty J. Morris Wagstaff	Evelyn M. Kipping McCorkle
Mrs. Jean C. Van Hee	Wilkerson	McDermott	Detty J. Morris Wagstair	Deborah Ann Hurley
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth W.	Ms. Maryann Williams	Catherine Townsell	1949	Smith
Van Pelt	Mr. Paul G. Williams	Voisinet	Thelma Lee Lickteig	Audrey A. Eden
Mrs. Marian A. Van Vleet	Mrs. Mary F. Wills	1044	Emerson	Sokoloff
Mrs. Sarah Vaz	Mr. Jefferson Wilson	1944 Martina Elizabeth Burke	Mimi Turpin Fasenmyer	Louise A. Dougherty Williams
Mrs. Ann M. Ventrillo	Mrs. Teresa B. Wilson	Esther Burke Loschke	Patricia Jean Walsh	
Mrs. Marty Venvertloh	Mrs. Theresa A. Witt	Mary Oxler Whitaker	Ferris	1953
Ms. Deborah J. Vidican	Mrs. Shirley B. Wolfanger	Wary Oxici Willtakei	Gloria A. Sutter Gerhardt	Mary F. Esch Cerkey
Mr. & Mrs. Mark B.	Mr. Charles E. Wolken	1945	Mary L. Hodes Growney	Mary K. Flaherty Cresto
Vogt	Mrs. Patricia K. Wood	Annette J.	Catherine R. Borne	Mary K. Ottenstein
Mrs. Catherine T.	Mrs. Patricia M.	Rommelfanger	Hall	Fogarty
Voisinet  Mrs. Helen Von Bevern	Wozniak	Matheson	Sr. Roberta J. Schmidt,	Mary Alice Ryan Hungerford
Mrs. Lori S. Vorbeck	Ms. Donna Fumie	Katherine A. Creegan Matroni	CSJ	Helen Fitzsimons Jaeger
Mrs. Jane M. Voss	Wright		Mary Catherine O'Donnell Shine	Mary Ann McLeese
Sr. Catherine A.	Mr. James R. Wright	1946	Rosemary Kelly Stolle	Mulligan
Wagner, CSJ	Ms. Sue E. Wright	Katherine R. Hodes	Shirley A. Brandt	Margaret J. Reichert
Mrs. Betty J. Wagstaff	Mr. & Mrs. Paul E. Yager	Ismert	Wolfanger	Porter Sr. Clara Vincent
Mrs. Eleanor D.	Mrs. Shirley J. Yarick	Louise McNellis Kring	Teresa M. Dew Woods	Slatinsky, CSJ
Walberg	Yoga Gallery	Mary Jane McGuire		
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Wald	Mrs. Meruia F. Yu	Mary Carol Burns Mitchell	1950	1954
Mrs. Dorothy C. Walls	Mrs. Mary Zappo	Helen Jane Gray Wald	Rose Aylward Ferguson	Mary Ann Graham
Ms. Christine M. Walsh	Zest Restaurant	,	Mary Pat Immenschuh Heller	Bellinghausen
Mr. & Mrs. Robert K.	Mr. & Mrs. Richard P.	1947	Mary C. Watson Huppe	Alberta Jean Meierer Benedict
Walsh	Zolnowski	Mary Schorfheide Bolin	Mary Joan Nikolai	Betty Carol Ziegler
Mrs. Marilyn J. Walter	Mr. Clarence I. Zugelter	Catherine Junker Derr	Kilian	Broski

1957 Mary Jo Schultz 1962 Mary Anne Gripka Martha H. Shumway Flucke Nemecek Elizabeth Anne Davis Laura Joyce Digiovanni Corley Rita Jo Kowalczyk Daniels Helen F. Rutte Stefanov Levens Sallie A. Rielley Frye Margaret Hernandez Martha Jane Schmeltz Madelon C. Perreault Daley Strobach Jacqueline A. Margaret Ann Fuchs Kleinhoffer Herfurth Norma N. Gunn Dowd Szumigala Josephine A. Boone 1955 Helen L. Wagner Hagel Himmelberg Catherine M. Rutte May S. Okamoto Bello Grace E. Bartholome Mary P. Hennessey Zolnowski Mary Lou Martin Hasibar Himmelberg Blomster Anne Marie Breslin Mary S. Bousman 1960 Doris M. Twenter Bock Hess Schneider Marilyn T. Carrigan Sr. Marie Damien M. LaNora Wholey Mary C. Geraci Tamboli Fennesy Adams, CSJ Hughes Jean C. Jacobson Van Patricia Jean Renicker Linda J. Rouse Barber Sr. Barbara Anne Hee Gladbach Sandra Sue Janousek Moore, CSJ Patricia A. Ketterlin Kathleen A. Brown Fee Janet M. Hansen Welsh McPhilliamy O'Connor Patricia Ann Baar Mary Ellen Miller Gleeson Leona D. Stoll Robben 1958 Mary M. Gatling Rufe Barbara Ann Struemph Carolyn Sue Gist Virginia L. Kopp Henze Santamaria Molle Gene Demarais Coppinger Stueve Barbara Steck Dana Lee Marli Hughes Roberta H. Hafner Sr. Catherine Agnes Mary Fa-Tuan Chu Yu Rosemary A. Cannon Courville Wagner, CSJ Kilker Joanne Parrott Couture Suzanne Warden Ward Madeleine M. Stallings 1963 Mary E. O'Donnell Fern Dorothy A. Whitfield McCabe Betty Ann Booker Margaret A. Pinkerton Patricia M. Turpin Hembree Ruby J. Freeman Bruce Robinson 1956 Marianne Jacobs Hogan Evelyn K. Bruegger Frances A. Spruill Mary M. Eppenauer Sheila K. Stacy Johnson Suzanne Becker Schilling Cearley Chelesnik Anna J. Kraus Virginia M. Brown Shiloh A. Maguire Martha A. Cutler Norma Lewis-Lavik Schmeltz Garies Davenport Frances A. Myers Kathleen M. Kavanaugh Nancy J. Lambert Marshan Ezell Fields Lehane Staab Gianino Madeline G. Danzo Mary Ellen O'Hern Clarice M. Ware Strawn Therese M. Mayer Johnson Meiners Hannum Mary M. Shine Tarwater Carol A. Santonello Kathryn Gordon Mary Kay McGrath Lame Mary J. Jensen Truog Murphy Howa Mary McLiney Arden A. Sickman Weis Margaret L. Yonke Rose Marie Lee Patricia A. Benoist Murphy Beverly M. Nichols O'Daniel Barbara A. Malmberg 1961 Mahl Rosalie M. Woydziak Nickerson 1966 Anita Jo Alvarez-Irene Whitley Marcus Schreiber Elizabeth Ann Hee Ludington Patricia L. Flanary Soetaert Linda M. Layne Benoff McCloskey 1964 Kathryn A. Musick Judith A. Warren Ford Antoinette M. Kopp Stadler Mary Ann Dunn Brown Powers Susan C. McMichael Mary Ellen Wilson Mary Ruth Donnelly Langenheim Mary Ann Chatman Stuhrenberg Virginia M. Nelson Smith Nadine F. Radtka Edwards McGurren Rose L. Keithline Smith 1959 Michaela M. Sheehy Barbara M. Kramps Barbara Ann Field Glennemeier Mary Sue Brancato Stock Meyer Elaine Mary Huffman Margaret Ann Walters JoAnn J. Teahan Mary Ann Nestel Gosselin Patricia A. Glenn

Gay K. Puester Peters

Mary Ann Martin Wells

Jensen

Kathleen Wall Kraft

Maher Jesdon M. Haake McCowen Kathryn E. Heine McIntyre Sarah L. Otto Merten Mary A. Castrop Morrow-Bax Patricia D. Klaus Owens Mary M. Bien Sharp Mary K. Schurig Sullivan Velma E. Love Woodson Kathyrn Ellen Wyrsch 1965 Mary Lou Kelsall Baker Carol (Patty) Moylan Baldwin Mary Evelyn Sullivan Chirpich Cynthia Ann Major Copeland Theresa A. Morris Egelhoff Frances Minges Engel Janet Orscheln Fague Joanne R. Parent Harrell Sharon K. Calloway Henry Virginia L. Munsterman Klein Barbara Ann Nickle Mary K. O'Connor Anne M. Triplett Quick Marlene J. Manley Rowe

Mary Jo Walker Campbell Colleen A. Nestor Enna Laura M. Burnett Euston Martha M. Machovec Everett L. Rosemary Barnard Goldblatt Patricia Sue Schuepbach Habiger Margaret A. Salamone McGrath

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Mary Loretto

McMichael Hittner

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# Avila Heritage

Firginia and Tom Coppinger have been married for 52 years; however, their partnership spans many more years than that. They attended kindergarten together. They began dating in high school. While Virginia was a nursing student at St. Teresa's College, Tom was attending Rockhurst College as a pre-med student.

Virginia has been very involved with Avila activities since graduation in 1958. She has been a member of the Avila Alumni Board. She has also served on the Board of Counselors since 2003. In addition, Virginia and Tom served as event chairs for the Avila Steer Dinner in 2007 to raise funds for scholarships.

Tom and Virginia have been members of the Heritage Society for many years. Because they graduated from two fine Catholic institutions, they agreed that supporting education was very important. When both Avila and Rockhurst were conducting capital campaigns last year, Tom and Virginia decided to donate real estate property, part of their estate, to help both universities now, not later. Their gift allowed them to avoid capital gains on appreciated property while taking advantage of a current tax deduction. The support from the Coppingers was very special because it was the capping gift for Avila University to reach its goal and to receive a \$900,000 grant from the Mabee Foundation.

"Tom and Virginia have been deep, abiding, faithful friends of Avila," said Ron Slepitza, Ph.D., Avila president. "They represent the best of the partnerships between Avila (formerly St. Teresa's College) and Rockhurst University students. Their marriage is indeed made in heaven, and we are all blessed by it."



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